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• Bordogna, Giuseppe G  
Ottawa, Ontario K2P 0K4 (CA)  
• Jamal, Riyaz R.  
Nepean, Ontario K2J 4W7 (CA)  
• McGhan, Douglas D.  
Ottawa, Ontario K1Y 4A8 (CA)  
• O'Sullivan, Maurice S.  
Ottawa, Ontario K1Y 0S5 (CA)

(71) Applicant: Nortel Networks Limited  
St. Laurent, Quebec H4S 2A9 (CA)

(74) Representative: Anderson, Angela  
Nortel Networks Limited,  
Harlow Laboratories,  
London Road  
Harlow, Essex CM17 9NA (GB)

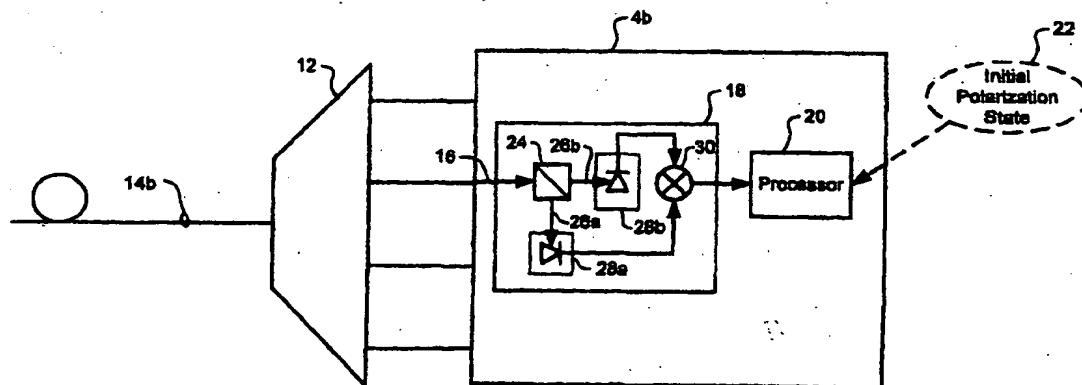
(72) Inventors:  
• Roberts, Kim B  
Nepean, Ontario K2R 1C8 (CA)

### (54) Measurement of polarization dependent loss in an optical transmission system

(57) A method and system enables measurement of polarization dependent loss (PDL) in an optical communications system including a plurality of cascaded optical components. An optical signal having a predetermined initial polarization state is launched into the opti-

cal communications system. A polarization state of the signal is detected at a selected detection point downstream of the launch point. The PDE is evaluated using the predetermined initial polarization state and the detected polarization state.

Figure 2



EP 1 289 174 A3

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## EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number  
EP 02 25 5917

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Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages				
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Place of search	Date of completion of the search	Examiner			
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CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS					
X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document					
T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document					

**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT  
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